

# **Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility**

## **Vocational Village**

### **Introduction**

The goal of the new Vocational Village model is to provide a positive learning environment for prisoners who are serious about completing Career and Technical Education.

### **Vocational Programs offered**

The Career and Technical Education programs offered at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility have been expanded with the implementation of a Plumbing and Electrical program. Student capacity in the Automotive, CNC/Machine Tool and Welding programs has also been increased with the additional staff that has been approved. The following vocational programs are offered:

- Automotive Technology
- Building Trades – Carpentry
- Building Trades – Plumbing/Electrical
- CNC/Machine Tool
- Horticulture
- Welding

### **Capacity**

When operating at full capacity, the Vocational Village will have approximately 165 Vocational Trade prisoner students, 21 vocational trade prisoner tutors, 12 building trade prisoner workers and 20 accredited Calvin College prisoner students and 20 non-accredited Calvin College students, totaling 238 prisoners.

### **Staffing for Vocational Trades**

The total staff compliment will include 9 instructors: 2 welding instructors, 2 CNC Machine Tool Instructors, 2 Automotive Instructors, 1 Building Trade instructor, 1 Plumbing and Electrical instructor, and 1 Horticulture instructor.

### **Programming**

In addition to the Vocational Trade programs, the Employment Readiness program will be offered to prisoners upon completion of their vocational trade. The Employment Readiness program will ensure the prisoner has the soft skills that are important to the success of the prisoner upon release. Employment readiness focuses on resume writing, interviewing skills and mock interviews. Prisoners will also be able to participate in substance abuse programming and cognitive behavioral programming such as Thinking for a Change.

### **Calvin College**

Calvin College is a Christian liberal arts college based out of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Calvin College has an accredited satellite campus within Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. The college courses offered by Calvin are at no cost to the State of Michigan or prisoner student. Twenty prisoner students

are currently enrolled in the Bachelor Degree program and are working towards the completion of their first year in college. Last semester, 7 out of the 20 prisoner students received a 4.0 GPA. No prisoner students failed the offered courses last semester.

### **Application and Screening Process:**

The purpose of the application and screening process is to ensure the right prisoner is enrolled in the right program at the right time. Prisoners statewide will be screened for eligibility and if necessary, transferred to the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility. The screening process is composed of many factors:

- Prisoner must have recommendation for CTE programming
- Academic programming is complete
- Vocational Counseling indicates the prisoner has an interest and aptitude for the particular trade
- Jobs related to the vocational trade are available in the prisoner's county of parole
- Prisoner must have at least 12 months to his earliest release date
- Prisoner must not have more than 24 months to his earliest release date
- Prisoner must be 24-months Class 1 misconduct free
- Prisoner must have completed all Core programming, or the core program(s) needed must be available at the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility
- Prisoner must screen general population

In addition to the screening criteria, an application to participate must be completed by the prisoner and is then reviewed by education staff. Education staff will determine if the prisoner meets the criteria and approves or denies the application. Using this application and screening process will identify prisoners who are serious about receiving vocational programming and are more likely to benefit from the programs upon release.

### **Metrics and Goals**

To measure the success of the Vocational Village, goals and metrics will be developed and tracked in several areas:

- Percent of prisoners who receive employment in the field of study during the first 60 days post release
- Number of misconducts written in D-Unit (compared to other general population units)
- Number of grievances written in D-unit (compared to other general population units)
- Number of critical incidents involving prisoners housed in D-Unit (compared to the rest of the facility)
- Percentage of prisoners who complete a vocational program
- Percentage of prisoners who participated that re-offend (3yr, 5yr post release)
- Percentage of Vocational Trade seats that are full